

ME. Maintaining the structural and functional integrity of our Navy's submarines enables the United States to consistently serve and protect our Nation's interests around the globe, and the NAS NSE of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard serves as a paragon of efficient, quality service on behalf of our Navy's ships and servicemen. Portsmouth has earned a reputation as the Navy's Center of Excellence for attack submarine maintenance, which is a reflection of the hard work and determination of the association to manage and protect these American treasures for national security. Through their consistent dedication and skillful work, the men and women of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard play a vital role in furthering the esteemed tradition of excellence within the NAS NSE.

Building on over a century of work to promote our Navy's strength, this year's historic convention focuses on the national initiative of improving productive capacity throughout the association. This year's convention will help to further streamline systems, optimize production, and enhance safety across all the NAS NSE's operations. Discussing and implementing improved strategies will help to ensure the continued effectiveness of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and shipyards all across the country.

I congratulate the NAS NSE on their 100th convention, and I thank them for their dedication and hard work on behalf of our shipyards. I wish them continued success in the future as the association continues to ensure the safety of our Nation for generations to come.

OBSERVING THE HOLIDAY OF VAISAKHI FOR THE SIKH COMMUNITY

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to honor and celebrate the holiday of Vaisakhi, a very important day for those who practice Sikhism.

The world's fifth largest religion, Sikhism was founded over five centuries ago and was introduced to the United States in the 19th century. There are over 500,000 Sikh adherents in the United States.

Pennsylvania is the home of many proud Sikh Americans, who contribute and make a positive impact in their workplaces, communities, and to our country. They are part of the rich cultural fabric of the Commonwealth.

As a member of the American Sikh Congressional Caucus, I rise to honor this community on the holiday of Vaisakhi. This is an important celebration for the Sikh community and is celebrated this year on April 13. On this day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh created the Khalsa, a fellowship of devout Sikhs. Vaisakhi is a festival which marks this occasion and the spring harvest.

The Sikh community around the world recognizes this important holiday with parades, dancing, singing, and

other festivities. Celebrations also include performing seva, or selfless service, such as providing free meals to others and volunteering for service projects in their communities.

I am proud to represent the Sikh community of Pennsylvania, and I wish the Sikh American community a joyous Vaisakhi.

Thank you.

HONORING OFFICER NATHAN TAYLOR

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of California Highway Patrol Officer Nathan Daniel Taylor, a beloved husband, father, brother, son, and grandson who tragically lost his life in the line of duty on March 13, 2016.

Officer Taylor was born on January 17, 1981, in Baltimore, MD. His family later moved to Loomis, CA, where Officer Taylor was an active member of the Boy Scouts, earning the highest rank of Eagle Scout. After graduating from Del Oro High School, Officer Taylor attended Brigham Young University on a full academic scholarship and received a bachelor's degree in history. He spent 2 years in Venezuela serving as a church missionary before joining the California Highway Patrol, continuing his commitment to helping those in need. Officer Taylor completed cadet training in 2010 and was assigned to the San Jose area office before transferring to the Gold Run area in 2013.

Colleagues fondly recalled Officer Taylor's tremendous service to the public, offering examples of his selflessness and compassion. "Officer Taylor was the most genuine, honest officer I knew," said CHP Officer Josh Webb. "He would literally give the shirt off his back for somebody." His ability to go above and beyond the call of duty also earned the appreciation and affection of the community he served. In fact, he received so many thank-you letters from the public that his colleagues joked that he must have written them himself.

Officer Taylor truly embodied the very best of law enforcement, and his courageous service will be forever remembered. On behalf of the people of California, whom Officer Taylor served so bravely, I extend my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his wife, Becky; sons Preston, Wyatt, and Joshua; parents, Jeff and Linda; brothers Karl, Collin, and Steven; sister, Sarah; and grandparents, Karl and Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO JANET AIRIS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I join with the vice chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator MIKULSKI, and the chairman and ranking member of the Budget Committee, Senator ENZI and Senator SANDERS, in honoring Janet Airis on her retirement after 32 years of distinguished service to the Congress with the Congressional Budget Office. Janet is highly regarded

by both Republicans and Democrats on both sides of the Capitol for her encyclopedic knowledge of the appropriations and budget process and its lexicon, her responsiveness to committee and Member staff, and her dedication to the nonpartisan role that CBO plays in the successful enactment of appropriations bills year after year. Janet has been a valuable asset to eight of the nine CBO directors.

Janet came to CBO in the waning days of 1983, fairly soon after graduating from Wellesley College. She joined the scorekeeping unit in the budget analysis division, which has the responsibility of tracking and scoring the appropriations bills at each legislative stage as well as tracking mandatory spending in authorizing legislation. Janet was hired to assist in maintaining the database used by the division. Janet has worked to keep the database in sync with the many changes in the budget process, integrating new categories and methods so that CBO could accurately tabulate and report on Federal spending. Janet started as the scorekeeper for the defense and military construction appropriation bills. Over the course of her career, she also handled the Transportation, Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Agriculture, and legislative branch appropriations bills, in the process gaining a vast array of knowledge of a substantial part of the Federal budget.

In 2000, Janet made the transition to unit chief. For the past 16 years, she has successfully overseen the analysis of the President's budget request for each of the appropriation bills, the scoring of the appropriation bills at each stage, the production and review of baselines, and the writing and coordination of CBO's annual report on unauthorized appropriations and expiring authorizations. Through all of these tasks, she has been the steady hand of the scorekeeping unit, generous with her time and knowledge, and vital to the smooth functioning of the budget analysis division. Senate staff and colleagues have come to depend on her for her ready expertise, diligence, and attention to detail.

Janet is also famous for sharing her prodigious baking talent. Every year she has coordinated the provision of cookies during the conclusion of the December baseline, which often coincided with the final days of a congressional session. The appearance of a red-clothed table outside of the scorekeeping unit bearing plates of homemade cookies always brings a smile to stressed budget analysts checking final numbers or scoring final bills.

Janet's expertise, corporate knowledge, and generosity of time and spirit will be sorely missed, but she well deserves an opportunity to rest after her years of outstanding service to the Congress. We are grateful for that service, and we wish her the best in the years to come.